

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/663,179

Examiner

Benjamin H. Layno

Applicant(s)

SEELIG ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 10/12/06 and interview on 12/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 56-65, 67-85, 87-95 and 98-109.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/20/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Howell on 12/20/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 96 and 97 have been canceled.

In claim 56, line 3 the new recitation —said movable mechanical display comprising a plurality of game symbols representing potential prizes—has been inserted after “device” and before “coupled”.

In claim 56, line 7 the word “does” has been deleted and in its place the new recitation —device and the plurality of games symbols at all times do—has been inserted.

In claim 56, line 8 the word “a” has been deleted and in its place the new word —any—has been inserted.

In claim 81, line 6 the new recitation --, and at all times said movable mechanical display and said movable object do not associate in any way with any particular prize—has been inserted after “prize” and before “.”

In claim 98, line 1 the number “97” has been deleted and the new number —107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 99, line 1 the number "97" has been deleted and the new number – 107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 101, line 1 the number "97" has been deleted and the new number – 107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 103, line 1 the number "97" has been deleted and the new number – 107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 104, line 1 the number "97" has been deleted and the new number – 107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 105, line 1 the number "97" has been deleted and the new number – 107—has been inserted in its place.

In claim 107, line 15 the new recitation --, and at all times said movable mechanical display and said movable object do not associate in any way with any particular prize—has been inserted after "device" and before ";

In claim 108, line 6 the new recitation --, and at all times said movable mechanical display and said movable object do not associate in any way with any particular prize—has been inserted after "prize" and before ";

In claim 109, line 6 the new recitation --, and at all times said rotating cage-type containment means and said visual means do not associate in any way with any particular prize—has been inserted after "device" and before ";

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In the Murray et al. reference, when Murray's game is active, the combination of symbols on Murray's wheels indicate a particular prize. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed "moveable mechanical display device is mechanically moveable in response to a signal from the controller when no active game is being played on the gaming device and wherein the moveable mechanical display device and the plurality of game symbols **at all times do not indicate any particular prize**".

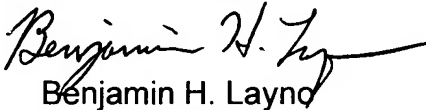
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin H. Layno whose telephone number is (571) 272-4424. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571)272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Benjamin H. Layno
Primary Examiner
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bhl